

PATTY MURRAY'S WASHINGTON VIEW

U.S. Senator Patty Murray's Weekly Report to the People of Washington – September 22, 2008

TANKERS: A DEEP BREATH AND A FRESH START

As many of you know, the Pentagon announced that they will be canceling the contract to purchase aerial refueling tankers and will begin a new competition once the next presidential administration takes office. For all of us who have worked so hard for a fair and transparent competition on behalf of America's warfighters, taxpayers and workers - this is welcome news. - [More](#)

[Washington lawmakers cheer air tanker delay](#) – Associated Press

.....

Highway Trust Fund: Providing a Badly Needed Fix

Recently, the Bush administration finally acknowledged what I have been warning them about for months - that the Highway Trust Fund, which funds road and bridge projects nationwide, is broke. An empty Highway Trust Fund threatens the safety of our nation's roads and jobs throughout Washington state and the nation. That's why last week I worked to help provide a fix to this problem that will avoid job losses and help repair crumbling roads.

[Details](#)

[Read more](#) about my warnings on this Highway Trust Fund shortfall.

["Senate approves \\$8 billion for highway trust fund"](#) – Associated Press

.....

Education: Improving the Education System for America's Youth

Last Wednesday (9/10), I addressed concerns about our education system at the first Senate Democratic Latina Summit. As a former pre-school teacher and a current member of the Senate Committee that oversees Education, I know the importance of an effective education system. In order to increase effectiveness and properly prepare America's youth, we need to improve early childhood education, create opportunities for at-risk youth, and create college informational programs. I plan to introduce legislation that will address these issues through incentives to stay in school, career guidance, and preparation to compete in the global economy.

[Details](#) | [Photo](#)

.....

Defense: Creating Jobs and Supporting Innovation in Washington State

Last Wednesday (9/10), I announced that Washington State will receive \$72 million in defense work for Fiscal Year 2009. The funding will be a part of the Defense Appropriations bill and will support 23 projects in Washington state. These projects will utilize the best technology that our state has to offer and put necessary military equipment into the hands of our men and women in uniform. At a time when our state needs an economic boost, this bill will also provide family wage jobs throughout Washington State.

[Details](#)

Sign Up for Patty Murray's Washington View: <http://murray.senate.gov/updates>